

# MACDONALD COLLEGE JOURNAL



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Farm · Home · School



# Everywhere!



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## More Than the Humdrum Things

The Royal Commission to investigate the status of cultural activities such as radio, films and art galleries will probably be set up before this appears in print. But the commission's studies won't be completed in a week or a month; The commission has a big job to do; and it will need all the help it can get to turn out, within a year or two, a report that will be of any real value to Canadians.

The importance of this investigation to rural life has been recognized by the Quebec Council of Farm Forums, which has commended the government for deciding to make this move. The council has also asked that all major interest groups in Canada be represented on the commission. And it urged that rural areas be represented by someone familiar with their special conditions and problems.

This indication that farmers are interested in more than the humdrum things of life may come as a surprise to those who believe that such things as music, painting, writing and drama are the special preserve of a privileged few in large centres. They have, of course, some apparent basis for this belief, in that they can find few good concert halls, art galleries, libraries, museums or theatres outside our big cities; so they may be excused for believing that, where such facilities don't exist there's no demand for their wares. But that conclusion is no more justified than it would be to decide that a person isn't hungry, just because he hasn't anything appetizing to eat.

The need for encouragement of creative thought and action in rural Canada was urged in an editorial, "Arousing the Spirit of Canada," in the November, 1948 issue of the *Journal*, which decried the dearth of such encouragement. This editorial has been challenged by *Food for Thought*, the magazine of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, in an editorial ending: "We respectfully call the attention of the Macdonald College *Journal* to the articles in this issue on art activities in Nova Scotia and Alberta. Has not the awakening begun?"

The Nova Scotia article told of the keen interest taken by rural Nova Scotians in travelling exhibits of paintings depicting scenes in the province, done by contemporary artists. The other described the development

and accomplishments of Alberta's community art schools. Both of these activities reflect a lot of credit on the people responsible for them, as do those carried on by numerous art, drama and other cultural groups across Canada. But they're practically all subject to the same limitation. They spring up only where there are artists who are willing to make big personal sacrifices, or where there's a sympathetic official willing to struggle against lethargy or even active opposition. So only one farm person in a good many thousand sees one of these exhibits; and the proportion that can take part in the schools is much smaller still.

The response of rural people to these activities and to the Manitoba exhibition of paintings by farm people shows a genuine appetite for art. And farm forum returns indicate that this desire for more cultural opportunity is shared by people in all sections of this country. The question is how to meet this widespread demand . . . and how to enable people to take an active part in creative activities.

A certain amount could be done locally in most places, with the talent they have on tap. Such efforts could certainly be furthered by other organizations following the lead of the Manitoba pools, and making it part of their program to encourage participation in the arts. But there's a limit to how far this movement could go without a larger framework. We need really good teachers within the reach of talented people, facilities to enable groups to work effectively, and some over-all organization to make the best use of personnel and facilities. None of these will spring up overnight. And they all cost money.

If the Royal Commission can come up with a workable suggestion for filling these needs it'll carve itself a unique niche in the history of Canada—and of Royal Commissions.

### Our Cover Picture

Catching the tasty tommy-cod is a wintertime diversion for a good many Quebecers. These shacks (some of them quite elaborate) give shelter to the fishermen who fish with hook and line through holes in the ice.

The picture was taken by the Quebec Cine-Photo Service at Batiscan, 20 miles below Three Rivers.

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# Who'll Buy My Apples?

**A**N up-hill battle faces many Canadian farmers. But probably the Nova Scotia apple industry has to climb the steepest slope of all; there just isn't any satisfactory market for many of its products. The industry is faced with the necessity of deciding exactly what markets it wants to hit, developing standards that will appeal to these markets and, getting these standards accepted by growers, processors and distributors. Then it must go all out to do a first class job of selling, to get a share of markets where other suppliers are already entrenched. That's no mean job.

Since Nova Scotia can no longer rely on Great Britain for a market it will probably, for several years at least, have to compete with other provinces for favour on our home market and anywhere else our wares can be sold. This means a complete change in outlook, as the Canadian taste in apples differs considerably from the Britisher's, and growers in other provinces have taken quite a lead in cultivating the home market.

The hope of the Nova Scotia industry seems to lie in changing its orchards over to varieties that are in ready demand in this and other countries, and in making a strong appeal to these markets through every device known to commerce. That throws a heavy burden on the United Fruit Companies of Nova Scotia, an organization which represents 60% of the Annapolis Valley crop and 75% of the growers. Its effectiveness in persuading growers to produce varieties acceptable on markets open to them, and to follow methods that will result in choice fruit will determine whether the industry really has a chance to thrive.

The UFCNS has to do its selling through the marketing board; but as these two organizations have a common chief and much of the same personnel there's some difficulty in separating their spheres of responsibility. Anyway, just how well the industry thrives will depend

That's the question facing Nova Scotia growers. Their whole industry may have to be turned inside out and upside down before they can find a satisfactory answer. What is done will depend mostly on a super co-op. and a marketing board.

on the resourcefulness and vigour of their total efforts in processing, merchandising and distributing apples and apple products.

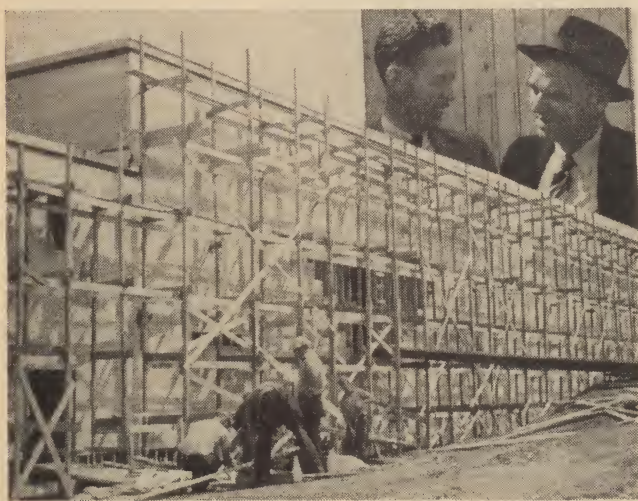
With these thoughts in mind I visited these concerns in the fall, to discover just how they operated. The UFCNS, I discovered, conducts a distributing, processing, buying and servicing centre for the Valley's apple growers. It works on the co-op principle of one man, one vote; but as its membership includes many co-ops it has extended this by adding the provision: "One co-op, one vote."

This concern, managed by W. R. Leslie, has its headquarters at Kentville. Besides the business office this is the locale of a supply warehouse, handling feeds, fertilizers and sprays; a machine shop which makes apple graders and repairs farm machinery of all kinds; and an agency for sprayers. In addition it maintains some excellent educational and field services, which include a grafting service headed up by two expert tree shapers, and a house organ—the Annapolis Valley Post Road, which is one of the brightest and most informative trade papers in Canada.

None of the actual handling of fruit is done at the Kentville headquarters, being undertaken by the eight branches and 37 locals. The branches include four processing plants—at Middletown, Aylesford, Berwick and Port Williams—and four cold storage, two at Cold Brook, one at Hillaton and one at Middleton. The cold storages have a combined capacity of 795,000 bushels under refrigeration, and two of them have packing rooms.

To see just what sort of equipment there was for handling apples, I visited the Cold Brook plants. When each shipment arrives a sample is taken from it and run over a grader, to determine what returns the grower should get. Then they go on a chain line, which carries them to the grading table, where the domestics and culls are picked off and put on separate lines. From there the apples go on past sized holes which start at 2¼ inch in diameter, with each succeeding hole an eighth of an inch wider than the last. Each apple continues along the chain until it reaches the first hole that's large enough to let it pass through; then it rolls down to join the others its own size. The two graders will handle 5,000 bushels of apples a day.

From there the apples go into grade-marked boxes, and are taken away to be stored until shipped. There are



The new 200,000 bushel cold storage plant at Cold Brook, N.S., in course of construction. Inset: Two UFCNS specialists, Editor J. F. Crosson and Engineer Eric Leslie.



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The new Cold Brook plant, which was being built beside the one operating at the time of my visit, has cold storage capacity for 200,000 bushels of apples, but no packing rooms. Both plants appeared to be thoroughly streamlined, to make excellent use of space, and to provide good working conditions. Credit for the up-to-date design of the plants and much of the machinery and equipment is due to Eric Leslie, the UFCNS engineer.

The only product of the Port Williams drying plant is dehydrated apples. The other processing plants turn out apple juice, sauce, and solid packed apples used mostly by restaurants. The Middleton plant also produces pie filler, apple flakes, concentrate, apple honey and apple essence, which has the aroma of apples cooking.

All of the 37 locals have common storage warehouses, and five of them have their own cold storages—those at Port Williams, Wolfville, Berwick, Banner and Grand Pre. Besides handling apples they sell machinery, fertilizers and other products which they get from the UFCNS.

The fruit growers' products are sold through the grower-controlled Nova Scotia Apple Marketing Board, of which Mr. Leslie is chairman. This board, which is set up as a guaranteed company, acts as the growers' representative on a year-to-year basis under the Agricultural Prices Support Board set-up. It has 52 members, elected according to the percentage of apples handled by each sub-agency. The ten-man executive is also appointed according to the percentage of the crop controlled—one member for each 10 percent.

The board disposes of the apple crop as best it can, either fresh or processed, and conducts a pool for the equalization of returns to farmers. Under this system each bushel of apples of a certain grade brings the same returns to growers, whether the apples are sold fresh or go into some process. The prices which processors must pay for their apples are worked out on the basis of what they can get for their products.

### Fine Educational Program

Summing up a few impressions of the whole N.S. apple set-up, there seems to be little doubt that the UFCNS is efficient in its handling of the apple crop, and carrying on a progressive, vigorous educational program which has already resulted in considerable improvement within the industry. Whether this program will be successful in bringing about the great changes that are still necessary depends somewhat on the attitude of the growers, some of whom don't take very kindly to suggested changes of varieties or methods to meet present market requirements.

This lack of flexibility is also a ball and chain on the operations of the apple marketing board, which can't be expected to get much for varieties that just aren't wanted. It also faces the difficulty of trying to sell to distributors who have long been handling apples from other provinces, and who can see no reason for making any change.

These limitations may be largely responsible for a commonly-heard criticism of the board—that it lacks initiative in finding new markets, preferring to rely on the Dominion Government to take the crops off its hands at support prices. It's easy to criticize, but it's very difficult to find any factual evidence that these criticisms are justified.

A bright future for the Nova Scotia apple industry seems to be possible only if growers, processors and board use every up-to-date idea and method in turning out products that are in wide demand, and then leave no wheel unturned in finding good markets for them.

## Need Education for Conservation

The need for soil conservation in Canada is becoming more and more apparent, and is one of the greatest responsibilities facing the people of this country today. Although there is much valuable work being done, many do not realize the emergency and importance of such projects. The work is not for the practical and technical agriculturists alone, but must receive whole-hearted support from people in all walks of life. All must fully grasp the importance, and the urgency of the immediate undertaking to arrest the deterioration of our soil, water, and forest resources.

Not only must we save our natural resources, but we must also adopt methods favorable to proper land use under the guidance of recognized authorities, and with this work, nutritionists and the medical profession must

play an even greater part for the progressive betterment of the health of the people. The layman, particularly the urban dweller, can play an important part in the program, by realizing the problem that faces all Canadians on the matter of soil conservation. They must realize a nation lives off the land, and play their part by helping to publicize and urge greater efforts in soil conservation work.

—Manitoba Co-operator.

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# Britain Bridges the Gap—II



Harvesting a bumper oat crop at Mount Barton, Devon.

by J. A. Scott Watson

ONE of the difficulties of the agricultural adviser, and especially of the District Officer who covers a wide field, who must of necessity be a man of wide practical knowledge and who leads a very busy life, is that of keeping abreast of the advance of science.

This difficulty is met in part by his frequent contacts, on specific problems, with the provincial specialists; partly by giving him "study leave" to enable him to attend scientific conferences; and partly by the organization of "refresher courses" where he hears, from research workers themselves, about the progress of their respective subjects. A quarterly journal will later supplement these facilities.

Little need be said on the qualities to be looked for in a farmers' adviser. He must have an understanding of the sciences that underlie the farming business, together with a knowledge of farm practice and farming tradition. Above all, his personal qualities—tact, modesty, diligence—must be such as will win the farmers' confidence, and he must have the capacity to make friends.

Advisory work may be dealt with under two heads, though the distinction is not clear-cut. First is the dissemination of information. There is the written word—the bulletin and leaflet, the article in the county weekly newspaper or the farm journal. The large-scale farmer, who works more with his head than with his hands, may read all three. The smaller man, who works long hours in the open air, more often reads the local weekly than anything else, as an actual survey has shown.

Next, England and Wales have a great number of farmers' discussion societies, branches of the National Farmers' Union and other local groups. Informal talks,

Here's how Britain is attempting to supply its district officers with supporting services, so they can be effective in informing farmers about important matters and in advising them on their individual farming problems.

especially when illustrated by slides or films, attract many farmers who do not read easily. Large meetings of farmers are organized for subjects of particular current importance, the speakers including farmers as well as extension and research workers.

In summer by far the most successful kind of gathering is the "Farm Walk and Talk," where a party perambulates a selected farm, with the farmer himself as well as the advisory officer to explain and discuss. Finally, there is the educational exhibit at the agricultural show, where models, charts and especially living plants and animals are made use of to demonstrate the new discovery of the best practice.

The other aspect of the work is the provision of advice on the particular problem on the individual farm. The farmer, whenever he is in difficulty, is encouraged to write or telephone to his district officer, who may be able to supply the answer offhand, or to obtain the required information and reply by letter. In other cases he may visit the farm to investigate, where he may have to collect a sample of soil for analysis, or a specimen of a blighted plant for diagnosis.

Again, he may feel that one or other of the specialist officers, either at the County or the Provincial Centre, could help, in which case he will arrange for a second visit in company with his colleague. It may be that the answer eludes even the latter when, if the matter is of real importance, the appropriate research institute is consulted.

A farmer who takes over a new farm sometimes makes heavy demands upon the Service, especially if his predecessor has died, or is unwilling to help . . . This field is for sugar beets . . . Should it be limed, and if so at what rate? The next he had intended for potatoes; but the neighbours say it has never grown a good crop; what might be the matter? This pasture is poor; would it probably improve with a dressing of phosphate or should it be ploughed and resown? And so on with perhaps a dozen more.

One other function of the Service must be mentioned. It is now part of the law of England that a farmer who fails to reach a reasonable standard of efficiency must be turned out of his farm. The recommendation to this effect is made by the County Agricultural Executive Committee. But before it can be made the farmer must





## More Bread for the World

**T**HE self-propelled Combine shown above, first introduced by Massey-Harris in 1939, enables *one* man in *one* day to cut and thresh enough wheat for 55,000 loaves of bread!

That is just one typical instance of the way in which modern farm machinery has stepped up the farmer's efficiency and production.

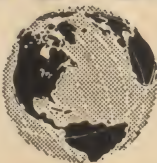
The *number* of Canadian farmers has increased by only two-thirds since 1900. Yet, thanks to the combination of production-building machinery and their own hard work, Canada's farmers are now growing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times as much grain as they did then . . . producing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as

much milk . . . feeding twice as many cattle and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as many hogs . . . and raising 5 times as many chickens! They are providing food for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as many people *in Canada* — and *exporting* 30 times as much wheat and 10 times as much flour.

The working day on the farm is still a long one, and the tasks still demand strong arms, strong backs and a determined will. But with Massey-Harris machines, the farmer finds it easier than before to win a good living for his family, and to bring to his farm home many of the conveniences, comforts and luxuries formerly enjoyed only by city folks.

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be placed under supervision for a year; and it normally falls to an Advisory Officer to supervise. This can be an unpleasant duty. But the adviser on whom the duty falls is still expected to act as the farmer's friend, and not as his judge. He must use his best endeavours to ensure that the productivity of the farm is materially improved by the end of the year, in which case the farmer will be relieved.

In conclusion, something must be said about the projected chain of experimental farms—fourteen in all—which are to form part of the equipment of the Advisory Service. These are not intended to compete with or to replace the existing research institutions, like Rothamstead Experimental Station or the Welsh Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth. One of their functions will in fact be to provide out-station facilities for the workers in the main stations.

Thus at Rothamstead a great many of the basic facts about soil fertility and plant nutrition have been established. But Rothamstead has its particular soil and climate, and the soils and climates of England and Wales are astonishingly varied. A cropping programme—a rotation of crops and a plan of fertilizer use—which gives a high and sustained level of production at Rothamstead may be inappropriate in an area with twice as much rainfall and a very different type of soil.

### Need Scattered Tests

We cannot hope, then, to be able to provide good counsel to the farmer unless we have a basis of accurately recorded experimental results from selected farms, representative of the more important combinations of soil and climatic conditions.

Similarly, the behaviour of the products of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station is well known when the plants in question are grown in our moist and mild western areas;

but their adaptation to other conditions must be investigated. Again, our animal research institutes lack adequate facilities for the large-scale trials that must be done before the adviser can confidently recommend the use of a new feeding stuff or the adoption of a new system of feeding or management.

The farms will also give the Advisory Officers themselves the opportunity to try to unravel problems which they meet in the field. The mere retailing of existing knowledge fails to satisfy a majority of advisers who want to experiment, to follow up their own original ideas. The enthusiastic District Officer can generally, indeed, find someone among his thousand farmers who is willing to help explore or test a new idea; and many valuable investigations are carried out through such co-operation. But the specialist, seeking more precise data, wants many refinements which the ordinary farm cannot provide, but which will be available at the experimental farms.

It is too early to estimate the rate of improvement that will be achieved by English farmers with the help of their research workers, teachers and advisers. The target set for the next four years is a high one—a 20 percent increase in output. This is to be attained in part by increasing the proportion of certain high-value crops and partly by an expansion of livestock production through the increased importation of animal feeding stuffs. But half the increase is expected to come from the improvement in farming methods.

Thus the aim is to raise our wheat yield from 32 bushels per acre to 35, our milk yield per cow from about 5,000 to over 6,000 pounds, our potato yield from 6.6 to 7.3 tons per acre, and so on. If we, and other countries, could achieve and maintain some such rate of progress, our present fear of hunger would soon begin to be allayed.

## Pool Hits Muzzling Rule

Denouncing the actions of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange as running counter to the principles of free speech, delegates of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool attending the 24th annual meeting accused the Exchange of trying to muzzle the elected representatives of the grain producers.

The action was taken as the delegates' answer to a news release announcing that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange had amended its by-laws, making members of the Exchange liable to be fined, censured, suspended or expelled from the association if any official or responsible employee of an organization holding seats on the exchange, criticized the Exchange Method of marketing, or took any action, which in the opinion of the Council of the Exchange, tended to undermine confidence in the Exchange system of marketing.

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool organization holds six seats on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. Speakers voiced the opinion that the action of the Exchange in amending the by-law was directed right at organized agriculture and particularly at the Pool.

Delegate after delegate rose to his feet to condemn the action of the Exchange. One saw it as a move to muzzle the elected representatives of organized farmers. Another described it as "vicious tactics that could have been borrowed from a Hitler or a Mussolini." Yet another challenged the right of a private unincorporated organization to operate solely for the benefit of its members without being amenable to any law in Canada, yet controlling the major industry of Canada and in many instances controlling the destinies of millions of people, both producers and consumers.

—Manitoba Co-operator.



## Insurance Schemes Feature Meeting With Federee

Charters have been granted for co-op health services in three Quebec counties, it was reported at the Co-operative Conference held in Montreal recently. The three are Brome, Gatineau and Pontiac.

The schemes will start by covering the cost of hospital bed, board and routine nursing services, plus a number of other items, in return for a yearly payment per family of about \$18, with an extra \$5 per year for dependent unmarried children between 16 and 21. But the ultimate aims is to provide a service for repayment of all types of hospital, surgical and medical bills.

When the reports on health services were presented they drew considerable discussion from delegates interested in launching similar schemes in other countries. Most of the questions were answered by Lawrence Horner and Stuart McClelland, presidents of the health service organizations in Brome and Gatineau, and by Mrs. Gilbert Telford, secretary of the Pontiac group. Several knotty points in procedure were also straightened out by Leo Berube, secretary of Le Conseil Supérieur de la Coopération.

A report on co-operative car insurance was presented by Neil Creller, chairman of the committee set up to investigate the possibilities. He outlined the committee's activities, and said that, at least at the outset, he believed it would be advisable to co-operate with some other group already rendering such service. There were, he said, three possible approaches to this problem; but each approach had both advantages and obstacles which would require further consideration before a positive recommendation could be made. The council asked the committee to continue with its study of car insurance, and report its further findings at the next meeting.

The president of the Cooperative Federee of Quebec, J. A. Pinsonneault, brought his greetings to the English-speaking group. In 1948 the Federee's business had continued to expand, with the result that the turnover was \$5,000,000 higher than in 1947. And it had helped to start two new industries helpful to co-ops. One was a cotton and jute bag factory operated by the Coop Federee for the Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited; the other a flour mill, whose by-products are distributed by co-ops, thus ending the helpless reliance on outside sources for mill feeds.

Dr. Henri C. Bois, manager of the Coop Federee, said there were indications that the market was likely to ease. He warned that farmers would be the first to feel any drop, but said that the Coop Federee was doing everything it could to cushion the blow for farmers. It was essential, he said, for Co-ops to put their business on the soundest possible basis, so they could keep on operating under less favourable conditions.



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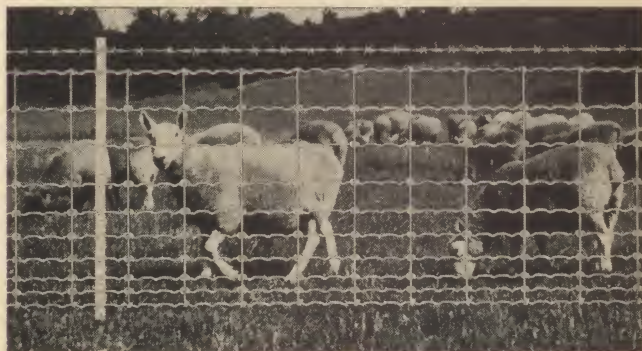
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# No Magic in Soil Tests

They don't provide a recipe telling how to whip up a bumper crop every year. But they do supply information which, when properly interpreted, can be very helpful to any farmer.

SOIL testing is no open sesame to successful farming. That's the warning of soil scientists, who believe that people often expect too much from testing. But these experts say that when the limitations of the tests are understood they can help a farmer get better results.

The standards for comparing soils fall into two main groups. The first of these deals with the relative content of clay, silt, sand, stones and organic matter, which decides the texture of the soil and the ease with which it can be drained and cultivated, as well as its suitability for plant growth. The other involves the nature and quantity of various chemical substances in the soil, which serve as plant foods.

When the soil scientist is trying to measure these things he must consider them separately; but when he goes to relate them to soil productivity he must consider them all together. The soil is not just a reservoir of plant food — it's the place where plant roots develop and do their work. It's also the centre of many activities, including those of soil bacteria, fungi and earthworms, which influence, and are influenced by the plants grown on the soil.

Unfortunately, laboratory soil tests can't show how the land will react under the natural conditions of weather and drainage in the field. Then, too, since a single field may contain several types of soil, the sample a farmer sends in for testing may not be at all representative of most of the soil in the field, and recommendations based on the test may be misleading.



A soils man makes up a composite sample for testing.

Since so many things are involved that it's impossible for anyone to study them all properly, soil scientists usually concentrate on the outstanding general features of the soil—whether or not it's acid, what sort of texture it has and how complete is its supply of plant food. The work is divided into two stages—securing an over-all picture of soil resources from surveys, and then passing on to individual farmers all the information which will be useful to them.

Say a survey shows that most of the soil in a certain region is Greensboro loam. The next step is to run field trials on this soil, to find out how it reacts in actually growing crops. These experiments may show that it needs certain fertilizer treatment under the conditions where the tests were made. That still doesn't mean that the same fertilizer treatment will do equally well for the same type of soil in another place, where weather, drainage and soil organisms may be different. The only way to make sure of this point is to test the treatment locally. For economy's sake it's best to do this in a small way, on just one portion of a field, and compare the crop there with that on the untreated part. If the test shows good results it's usually safe to apply the same treatment to all the soil of the same type on the farm.

## Can Learn from Neighbours

Even where no lab tests have been made, farmers may gain from surveys. If your soil is of the same type as your neighbor's, and he's getting considerably better results than you are, you may be able to improve your returns by finding out where his practices differ from yours, and changing yours accordingly.

Soil surveys show, in a general way, what crops the land is likely to produce successfully. For example, they may indicate that a certain district is not much good for mixed farming, but quite well suited to orcharding. Or they may show that if rotations are changed to include more grasses and legumes the land will produce better grain crops. They may also suggest that yields might be improved by applying certain fertilizers or adopting certain methods of cultivation. More and more farmers will find themselves in a better position to farm scientifically as soil surveys, tests and trials proceed.

Farmers in areas where surveys have not yet been made can also secure some benefits from having their soil tested. They may do this by sending samples of it to the laboratory doing this work in their region. In Quebec it's done by the Soils Department of the Quebec Department of Agriculture, Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere. Maritime samples are tested at the Provincial laboratory, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S., and Eastern Ontario samples at the Chemistry Division, Kemptville Agricultural School, Kemptville, Ont. Macdonald College, having neither the facilities nor the staff for this work, does **not** test farmers' soil samples.

When a farmer wishes to take advantage of this free service he should first get in touch with the laboratory that does the work in his region, and secure instructions on how to take and forward the sample. These instructions need to be followed closely, to have the test mean very much. When the farmer receives the report he should talk it over with his agricultural representative or a soil specialist, to find out how to make the best use of this information on his farm. The value of soil tests depends on how accurately the results are interpreted and how well recommendations are applied.



# Forum Council Applies for Charter

The Quebec Council of Farm Forums will apply for a charter under the Professional Syndicates Act, it was decided at a recent meeting in Montreal. If the charter is granted the organization's name will be changed to the Quebec Farm Forum Association. Its chief objectives, as stated in the application, will be to promote agricultural extension work among farm forum members in Quebec by radio, short courses, press articles and any other means of education to improve agriculture. It will also encourage co-operation.

## National Forum Meet at College

The National Farm Radio Forum was invited to hold its annual meeting at Macdonald College on May 26-28. The council decided to encourage a carload of key people from each county to attend the session on May 27, as it believed they would learn a great deal about the operations of the national forum which would be useful to their local groups. Several members pointed out that these meetings have a great deal of educational value, and urged that funds be set up to send local representatives.

## Farm Day June 25

Saturday, June 25, was selected as the date of the annual Farm Day at Macdonald College. It was announced that the program would be built along the same general lines as last year, with the annual meeting of the



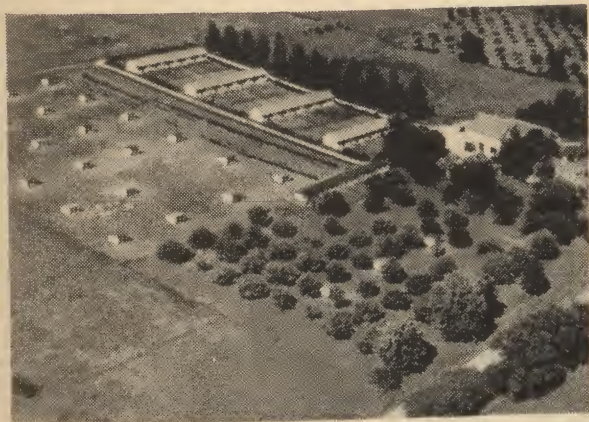
Some of the delegates at the Co-op Conference in Montreal. forums in the morning and college tours in the afternoon. This year's tours, as tentatively outlined, included one on weed control, one on animal health and one on household science. It was also decided to ask Jack McPherson, CBC Farm Commentator for Ontario and Quebec, to attend the Farm Day.

## Endorse Public Radio

The council endorsed the resolution on radio of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which reaffirmed

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its support of the present set-up of radio in Canada as being in the interests of the people at large, and strongly opposed any interference with the present status of the CBC.

The CFA resolution urged the public authority to resist all efforts of private interests to establish networks of their own, which "would not only result in even greater exploitation of radio for private gain, but would also give such interests undue control over mediums of influencing public opinion to their own selfish ends." And it stressed the importance of having Canadian agriculture represented on the board of governors of the CBC.

The projected establishment of a Royal Commission to investigate radio, films, the national gallery and other cultural activities was discussed. The meeting commended the government for its decision to set up such a commission, and asked that its membership include representation for all major interests in Canada, including agriculture.

### Co-operation Necessary

The advantages of rural people presenting a united front were brought out in a discussion on the best ways of presenting farm problems to the government. The council decided to ask representatives of the Co-op Federee and the Union des Cultivateurs Catholiques to meet with council delegates to discuss the possibilities of such collaboration.

It was also pointed out that confusion often arose because there is a lack of uniform coverage in the grading of farm products. Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture were asked to extend their grading systems so as to standardize the grades on all agricultural products. Government officials were further asked to do everything possible to secure further export markets for farm production. And the council decided to ask the Department of Agriculture for assistance in checking swamp fever in horses.

## They Pull the Loose Ends Together

The New Brunswick Resources Development Board, established by order-in-council in the fall of 1944, has now drawn up blueprints for the conservation and improvement of the province's natural wealth. This board, intended as a central agency to survey all aspects of N.B. resources and suggest methods of improving the general economy of the province, is responsible only to the premier. Its full-time chairman is Dr. H. J. Rowley, and the other members are Dr. John S. Bates, Senator F. W. Pirie and K. B. Brown.

The board's activities are directed along five main lines — forest conservation, stream improvement, fish conservation, recreation development — all very closely related—and mineral development. It is not doing any direct research in soil conservation, but Dr. Rowley is wide-awake to the needs of agriculture, and has brought up the question of whether peat moss might be economically used to supply humus.

N.B. forests have been allowed to run down, says Dr. Rowley, as a result of indiscriminate cutting. Better forest management is needed; this entails the use of all species, and of forest waste. It also necessitates the building of roads to serve a triple purpose—to make it easy to reach any part of the N.B. forest for logging operations, control of pests and fire fighting.

Dr. Rowley envisages a vast network framed by arterial roads for automobiles, with secondary and tertiary roads leading off like the branches of a tree, for the other purposes.

The stream improvement program considers the four uses to which streams are put—floating logs, generating electric power, providing breeding and feeding places for fish and providing lakes and streams for recreation.

The big problem the board sees in New Brunswick's lack of good-sized lakes to provide storage reservoirs.

It envisages a program of dam construction to back up the water in valleys, easing spring floods and providing a generous supply later in the season. But fish like salmon and shad, that go up to the headquarters to spawn, introduce a complication. Fishways will have to be built in the dams to enable them to go up-stream, and power turbines will have to be of a type that will allow them to go down again without carving them up. A suitable type of turbine is the Kaplan model, which comes in sizes up to 25 feet in diameter, through which even big salmon can pass safely.

The recreation end, has already been discussed in the forest and stream programs. But even ardent hunters and fishermen need places to eat and sleep, and the board is encouraging people to build better hotels and restaurants, so that New Brunswick will be an attractive vacation land for many more people than at present.

In minerals, New Brunswick has superphosphate near Moncton, where fertilizers can be secured for the enrichment of farm land. As well as the operating coal fields, there are other fields that have not been worked in recent years, but that might be worth opening up again at the present price for coal.

### Correction in Sow Feeding Story

In the article "Feeding Begins Before Birth" by G. C. Ashton in the January 1949 number there was an editorial error. The paragraph just above the illustration on page 5 should read:

"The pregnant sow should be fed the same type of ration as one that is milking. Experiments and experience have shown that the only real difference in their nutritional needs is that milking sows need **more** feed than the others. The exact amount, of course, will depend on the size of the litter."



## P.E.I. Soils Show Real Need For Better Farming Methods

The soils of Prince Edward Island are rather low in natural fertility, says G. B. Whiteside, soil specialist at the Dominion Experimental Station, Charlottetown. In soil tests on samples taken from all sections of the province 60 percent were low in readily available nitrogen and phosphoric acid, nearly 80 percent were low in available potassium, 43 percent in calcium and 27 percent in magnesium.

The tests for soil acidity showed 55 percent of the cultivated surface soils were strongly acid, with pH values of 5.6 or less, while only 18 percent were in the weakly acid to nearly neutral range, with pH values of 6.4 or higher.

When the results were related to the different soil tests it was shown that 40 percent of the heavier textured group was low in organic matter, with 62 percent in the strongly acid range and 11 percent in the weakly acid range. Of the medium-textured soils 59 percent were low in organic matter, with 49 percent strongly acid and 14 percent weakly acid. The light textured or sandy soils showed 77 percent low in organic matter, 69 percent strongly acid, and 12 percent weakly acid.

The results show that the medium-textured soils are somewhat lower in phosphorous, potash and magnesium than the other soils. More than half of the cropped area of the province is in this medium-textured group.

Group tests alone cannot determine the actual fertility of a soil, says Mr. Whiteside, because soil fertility proper is not entirely measurable. However, a knowledge of the relative levels of available plant nutrients and the approximate amounts of organic matter in the soil, as well as the acidity, will serve as a useful guide to its fertility.

The improvement of P.E.I. soils will require the soundest of farming practices; given these, there is good reason to expect satisfactory production. Unfortunately, says Mr. Whiteside, the tests show that prevailing practices are not achieving this objective.

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# What Publicity Can Do

Farmers often receive less than their due from press and radio. Their best hope for remedying this situation is to provide good, newsy reports that will tell the public about their activities. And they can learn to write reports that will be eagerly received.

FEW farm organizations have yet learned the value of good publicity. Most of us overlook the fact that although big business owes part of its success to advertising, it also owes part to other less obvious and less expensive means of making a good impression on the public. This oversight on the part of co-operatives was recently described in the *Manitoba Co-operator* in an editorial which reads in part:

"The people who oppose co-operatives have never failed to capitalize on publicity; and they have cleverly publicized their activities and 'crusades' through all media of advertising. They know the value of public relations work, and seem to have little regard for cost. In many instances their propaganda, particularly that which is uniquely disguised, has paid dividends.

"The co-operative organizations" the editorial continues, "apparently fail to recognize what private business and powerful organizations readily acknowledge—that the results and dividends achieved through advertising and public relations work cannot always be measured in monetary units. Much of it . . . remains effective long after the original purpose of the publicity is forgotten."

This attitude is not peculiar to co-operatives; it's found in almost all rural organizations. It may arise from lack of thought, lack of experience or lack of knowledge. Many people think of publicity almost entirely in terms of advertising; but while ads are an extremely valuable type of publicity there are many other supplementary types which are very inexpensive, and some that cost an organization nothing but a little effort. If these are properly used they will greatly increase returns from each advertising dollar; and they may produce good results even when there are no dollars for advertising.

## News Is Best Publicity

The best type of publicity for any organization is news of its activities week by week and month by month. Groups that have used this type of publicity have found that it gathered in support from the most unexpected quarters. It's hard to resist a going concern—if you know it's a going concern. But when people see no reports in the press and hear no reports on the radio of what an organization is doing, they've little reason to believe that it can amount to much.

Sometimes people complain that they've supplied press or radio with reports, but that they weren't used. Usually,



A couple of Ontario farm group officials discuss some agricultural problems with representatives of a big U.S. Magazine.

when such a complaint is investigated it turns out that the material was not up to the standard required by the paper or the radio station. Quite often it made no pretense at being news, but was simply out-and-out propaganda; and although propaganda sometimes appears in news reports, most editors try to keep it out. They don't want the opinion of an unauthoritative person on what should be or shouldn't be, unless it's quoted as a statement made in public, and leading to some action.

What editors do want is news about what people are doing. A talk with the local editor will give any would-be publicist an idea of what's required, and pave the way to a good start.

However, newspapers and radio stations can't be expected to do a complete publicity job for any organization. At the best, they can carry only the sort of material that will appeal to most readers and listeners; and the amount they can use is limited by the other demands on their space or time. The real function of press and radio stories in publicity is to create and maintain interest in a group's activities. Other methods are needed to supply additional information to people who have become interested.

To aid people and organizations that recognize the importance of public relations the Adult Education Service of Macdonald College has just published a brightly illustrated booklet on "How to Handle Publicity." This booklet was prepared by J. S. Cram, Farm Editor of the *Macdonald College Journal*, and illustrated by Alma Duncan of the National Film Board, and text and illustrations work together to drive home practical points in the use of publicity. The booklet may be secured from the Information Centre, Rural Adult Education Service, Macdonald College, at 25 cents a copy.





## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec  
Department of Agriculture*

### Pomologists Adopt New Grading Regulations

Members of the Quebec Pomological Society turned out in full force to attend the annual meetings of the Society, which lasted for three full days this year, on February 10, 11 and 12. The longer sessions gave time for talks and discussions on a wide variety of subjects, but the question of apple grading seemed uppermost in the minds of most delegates during the joint meetings.

For some time a committee has been at work in an effort to so amend the provincial regulations that they will conform to those of the Federal Government. Much of the change has to do with description of the various grades. But a more fundamental change is the one whereby the recognized classes will in future be Extra Fancy, Fancy, and C grade, the grade "domestic" disappearing. The Federal standards will be adopted for these three grades. It was also agreed that, September 15 to June 25 each year, no apples may be sold ungraded. A suggestion that the minimum size be reduced below 2" was brought up by some members present, and a ballot was held to determine the wishes of the majority on this point, with the result that the proposal was defeated.

In welcoming the members at the opening session, President Lucien Fontaine emphasized the need for continual study of the technical and economic problems which the industry continues to face. New pests are constantly appearing, and new methods of controlling them are put forth. The potential value of these insecticides and fungicides must be determined. These are questions which cannot be answered by the individual grower, but which can be studied by experts through the medium of the Society.

Economic problems are becoming more complicated yearly. Competition from other provinces is increasing and will continue to increase unless new export markets are found, which is not likely to occur for some time at least. To meet this competition successfully, we must improve our grading and packing methods, to be sure that our Quebec apples are presented as attractively as those from other provinces, and we must advertise effectively.

President Fontaine also noted that the society has only 496 paid-up members whereas there should be at least 675 or 700, and pointed out that only with a strong membership could the Society continue to function as it should, for the benefit of all growers, of whom there are about 1,100 in Quebec.

The Secretary's report noted an improvement in grading and packing of the 1948 crop, which was estimated at 1,200,000 bushels valued at \$2,350,000. MacIntosh sold at an average of \$2.44 per bushel and Fameuse at \$2.00. The strawberry crop was estimated at 2,275,398 quarts worth \$571,377 raspberries 101,970 quarts worth \$46,736, and blueberries 9,286,077 quarts worth \$1,349,695.

A number of resolutions were prepared by a specially appointed committee, and were adopted, but not before a number of them had been thoroughly discussed and, in some cases, amended from the floor. The Minister of Agriculture was asked to so amend the requirements of the Plant Protection act so that adequate spraying of all orchards would be compulsory in all zones established for apple maggot; in other words, all sprays as recommended in the spray guide would be required.

The Department was also asked to increase its staff and to engage extra help if necessary, in order to make adequate checks on the emergence dates of scab and insects in Quebec orchards, and that spore and insect traps be installed where necessary. It was also suggested that the inspectors visit the growers more often.

A resolution asking that more teeth be put into the law regulating spraying while bees are busy in the orchards did not meet with general approval, and instead it was agreed to set up a committee consisting of three beekeepers and three apple growers, to study the whole question of the relation of spraying to the killing of bees, and to study the possibility of using some of the newer compounds which may not be dangerous to bees, but which may be just as effective in the control of other pests:

The Department of Agriculture was also asked to study the laws governing peddlers which are in force in Ontario and to adopt something similar that would fit conditions here. And finally, a resolution was adopted asking the City of Montreal not to increase its stall rent on Bonsecours Market.

Mr. M. H. Hudon was the speaker at the luncheon meeting and the burden of his talk was that we were neglecting fundamental research in pomology. "An industry like ours," he said, "which represents millions of dollars of invested capital, should be carrying on an extensive programme of research in many directions—orchard



management, better varieties, fertilization, spray materials and programmes, etc." He pointed out that much should also be done in the economic sphere with regard to advertising and sales campaigns.

Lucien Fontaine remains as president for 1949, with Floyd Stevenson as vice-president. District directors are Messrs. N. Morin, J. M. Petit, G. Parent, H. Laberge, G. O. Baillargeon, Mrs. Jules Simard and Father Fernand. Other directors are M. H. Hudon, W. J. Tawse, Albert Whitney, B. Lanctot and Edgar Standish.

## Field Crop Plans for 1949

Mr. Andre Auger, director of the Field Crops Service, has passed on some ideas as to what should be done about field crops plantings in the coming season, and the following is taken from a radio talk given by him in a recent broadcast.

"We will be selling bacon, cheese and eggs to Great Britain again this year. How much we will be able to send overseas on our contracts depends to a great extent on how much grain, hay and pasture we will have to feed out livestock and poultry properly.

"The year 1948 was one of abundance, and for the most part crop yields were above average. We harvested 18,000,000 bushels of grain. All this meant money in the pockets of the farmers. Admittedly, growing conditions were particularly favourable for grain production, but it will be to our advantage to aim still higher this year.

"The weather this winter — lots of rain, followed by freezing weather — has covered the low fields with ice and has made the higher land bare of snow cover, with the result that many fields are poorly protected against the rigors of winter. If, as is possible, the hay crop should suffer in consequence, there are two things that can be done: cut down on the numbers of livestock, or else grow annual crops as substitutes for the hay. To my way of thinking, the second alternative is the better one.

"Oats, cut green and dried, gives a hay of reasonably good quality. The addition of field peas and vetches increase the value of this forage, increasing its protein content and making it a rather good feed for dairy cows.

"Another crop which is worth thinking about is millet. Seeded in suitable locations, millet gives a good yield. It is not so well liked as timothy hay, but none the less it is a crop that can be used to overcome the difficulty we may have to face.

"Our plan should be to grow as much grain as we possibly can. Meadows which have been badly winter-killed should be plowed and seeded with millet, or with some kind of grain to be used as fodder. Our objective should be to grow 25,000,000 more bushels of grain than we did in 1947."

## Beet Growers View Future With Confidence

Six hundred farmers, present for the annual meeting of the Quebec Sugar Beet Producers' Association recently, demonstrated their interest in the sugar refinery project, coming as some of them did from as far as 100 miles away over bad roads to attend the meeting. They paid keen attention to the proceedings, and many of them took advantage of the opportunity to sign their contracts for the 1949 season.

Deliveries of beets to the refinery during 1948 totalled 27,556 tons. This is still a long way from the potential capacity of the factory, but the ever-increasing amount of beets being delivered each year, and the definite interest on the part of growers, indicates that more and more beets will be available every year. The 1948 crop averaged 9.57 tons to the acre and, at the price paid of \$13.00 per ton, this was a gross revenue to the farmer of \$124.41.

Mr. Louis Pasquier, manager of the factory, reported that the St. Hilaire plant had the best record of sugar production per ton of beets processed of any in Canada, in spite of the fact that the sugar content of the beets was slightly lower than that of beets grown in other provinces. This speaks highly for the efficiency of the plant and of the workers in it. The sugar produced is of high quality and commands an excellent price on the Montreal and Quebec markets.



The Quebec Sugar Refinery at St. Hilaire

There are 9,469 farms in the seven counties right around St. Hilaire, but so far only some 646 farmers in these counties have grown any beets for the factory. Production possibilities are great, once the idea really catches on, it was pointed out by Mr. J. E. Lemire, in charge of beet production, that many farmers who are now growing crops such as vegetables for the canneries, might be well advised to give careful consideration to the possibility of switching to beets, for which there is a permanently guaranteed market at their doors.

Mr. Lemoine, vice-president of the Association, gave high praise to the various agricultural associations, the Cooperative Federee and the U.C.C., whose concerted



and determined efforts were, he felt, one of the main factors in getting sugar beet production on a firm basis in Quebec. Both he and President J. A. Pinsonneault urged everyone concerned to continue giving their support to the industry. Everyone who spoke at the meeting was convinced that the era of deficits is now passed, and that the industry is at last firmly established as a very definite factor in Quebec's agricultural scheme.

Mr. Pinsonneault will continue as president and Mr. Lemoine as vice-president for the coming year, with Antonio Rouleau as vice-president also. Gilbert Dionne will again be the secretary of the Association.

## Quebec Leads In Butter Production

The latest report from the Bureau of Statistics indicates in no uncertain terms how great a contribution to Canada's butter stocks have been made by Quebec farmers. For quality of its butter, and for quantity produced, Quebec was not equalled by any other province during 1949.

Not counting butter made on the farm. Quebec farmers were responsible for the production of almost 96 million pounds of butter last year, almost 22 million pounds more than her nearest competitor, Ontario.

In view of the dry summer, the fact that Quebec's total production in 1948 was only 1.6% less than in 1947 is a very creditable showing, and the decrease should not cause undue concern.

As for quality, here again Quebec butter makers can hold their own. Of 354,357 boxes of Quebec butter graded by Federal inspectors between December 1, 1947 and October 30, 1948, 95.37% was graded 1st quality. A good part of this excellent showing can be traced to the system of contests and prizes for well run butter factories which Minister of Agriculture Barre has had in operation for the past few years.

## Fighting Bacterial Wilt

Bacterial wilt is considered as the chief enemy of the Quebec potato crop, and producers of the Lower St. Lawrence district of the province have decided that something should be done about it. At a recent meeting attended by some sixty growers, tradesmen and managers of co-ops, held at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere at the suggestion of the Plant Protection Bureau, it was decided that it would be necessary to have compulsory inspection and grading of all potatoes destined to be sold. Consequently, the producers have asked the Department of Agriculture to set up a quarantine zone which will include the counties of Kamouraska, Riviere du Loup, Temiscouata, Rimouski, Matane and Matapedia.

In this zone, it would be obligatory for every grower who plans to sell his potatoes commercially, to adhere to the following regulations. 1. To use only certified seed



Concerted action by Quebec potato growers can keep all fields look like this.

for planting. 2. To disinfect everything and anything that comes in contact with the potatoes — tools, wagons, bags and so forth. 3. To permit as many inspections of fields, or of storage bins, as may be necessary, by inspectors appointed under the terms of the regulations asked for. 4. To report the first appearance of bacterial wilt in the crop. 5. To completely destroy all crop refuse which may carry any trace of the disease. 6. To get rid of all potatoes affected with wilt before the first of March.

In charge of the meeting was Dr. George Gauthier, Plant Protection Director. Ernest Dube promised the full co-operation of his agronomes in seeing that the regulations are carried out if they are adopted by the Department. Champlain Perreault, director of the Federal Plant Pathology laboratory, Dr. Campagna of the Agricultural School, and Bernard Baribeau, potato inspector in chief, all took part in the discussion, explaining the nature of the disease, how it is spread, and the consequences to the potato growing industry if it is not checked.

It was pointed out that in the district in question, about 12,000 acres of potatoes are grown, which have a value of some \$2,000,000. At least 50% of the crop is infested and in some places the infestation is as high as 70%.

### Financial Help Asked For

In order that the growers might start off fresh with clean seed, the Department was asked to subsidize the purchase of the necessary certified seed, at least for the first year, in this zone.

## MARKET COMMENTS

A marked drop in prices of livestock occurred during February. The decline in beef cattle prices applied to all classes though veal recorded less change, no doubt due to light supplies at this season of the year.

The decline in price of bacon hogs may seem surprising considering the contract price for bacon for export. Certainly this drop cannot be explained by increased supply as the number marketed in the first five weeks of 1949 shows a decrease of over 40 percent



compared with the similar period of the previous year. The real reason for the drop in price is the greater drop in price in the United States and the general decline in all meat prices. This decline is reported as due to two factors; one lessened demand for cattle for export and the other declining consumer demand.

Dairy production for January 1949 exceeded the output of the same month of the previous year. This follows an easier feed situation. A decline of grain prices indicated a continuance of this situation. Oil meal, which had not been quoted for two months, was again available.

### Trend of Prices

	1943 Feb.	1949 Jan.	1949 Feb.
<b>LIVESTOCK:</b>	\$	\$	\$
Steers, good, per cwt. ....	15.55	24.00	21.20
Cows, good, per cwt. ....	11.55	17.40	15.55
Cows, common, per cwt. ...	8.80	13.30	12.20
Canners and cutters, per cwt. ....	7.40	11.60	11.05
Veal, good and choice, per cwt. ....	22.65	29.60	29.45
Veal, common, per cwt. ....	20.40	25.40	26.15
Lambs, good, per cwt. ....	16.00	25.00	22.00
Lambs, common, per cwt. ....	11.20	22.80	19.55
Bacon hogs, B1, dressed,....	28.10	32.40	30.10
<b>ANIMAL PRODUCTS:</b>			
Butter, per lb. ....	0.67	0.68	0.68
Cheese, per lb. ....	0.36	0.33	0.33
Eggs, grade A large, per dozen ....	0.43	0.49	0.44
Chickens, live, 5 lbs. plus, per lb. ....	0.29	0.40	0.37
Chickens, dressed, milk-fed A, per lb. ....	0.40	0.50	0.48
<b>FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:</b>			
Apples, Quebec McIntosh, extra fancy, per box	—	—	3.75-4.25
Apples, B.C. McIntosh, extra fancy, per box	3.50-4.25	3.50-4.25	3.50-4.25
Potatoes, Quebec, No. 1, per 75 lb. bag ....	2.10-2.15	1.20-1.25	1.30-1.40
<b>FEED:</b>			
Bran, per ton ....	49.75-50.75	57.00-58.75	58.00-58.50
Barley, Meal, per ton ....	64.75-68.00	60.75-62.50	60.75-62.25
Oat Chop, per ton ....	63.75-67.00	59.50-64.25	55.25-62.25
Oil Meal, per ton ....	73.00	—	79.00

### Scholarships from the A.I.C.

The Agricultural Institute of Canada announces an open competition for a number of \$800.00 scholarships to be awarded to workers in the field of professional agriculture.

In 1945 the Institute undertook to raise \$50,000.00 for this purpose. Funds were to be used over a 3-year period to help overcome the shortage of men with advanced training which resulted from the curtailment of advanced studies during the war years.

Having passed its minimum objective, the Agricultural Institute announces that the current competition will end its present program. However, its interest and work in this field will not cease. Based on the work of the past few years, the Institute is developing a permanent scholarship

policy and is optimistic of being able to offer a modest number annually in the future.

This optimism is based on the kindly interest which Canadian business firms have taken in this effort to give better training to outstanding Canadian agriculturists. During the past three years, 55 scholarships of \$800.00 each have been awarded and the present competition will bring the total to approximately 65.

## About Livestock Production in 1949

Mr. Pierre Labrecque, Director of the Animal Husbandry Service of the Department, has a few items of advice to pass on to livestock raisers of the province in regard to their plans for 1949. Says Mr. Labrecque, "There is every indication that, on the whole, 1949 will be a very good one for livestock men. The markets which are at their disposal can absorb all our production and, though it is likely that prices will soften toward the end of the season, there is no reason to make any significant reduction in production."

He suggests a greater emphasis on cheese production; increased plantings of grain, particularly barley, to serve as hog feed, and does not suggest any decrease in livestock herds. As for poultry, he sees no reason for pessimism; the present fall in egg prices is only seasonal. Production should be kept at normal levels, and orders for chicks should not be reduced, nor should the population of laying hens be reduced. Those farmers who have a well-organized business will have no reason to regret the time and money they have spent on improvements.

### Quebec Seed Potato Statistics

A total of 1,579 acres met requirements of seed potato certification standard during 1948 in Quebec. This is a decrease of 86 acres over the previous year and an increase of 96 acres above 1946.

According to a report recently provided by the Division of Plant Protection, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Green Mountain variety continues to lead with 2,262 acres; other varieties are Irish Cobbler, Katahdin, etc. A total of 913 fields consisting of 2,560 acres were entered by 508 growers of which 65 per cent passed or 593 fields. Total production amounted to 469,000 bushels consisting of 28,350 bushels Foundation, 207,650 bushels Foundation-A and 233,000 bushels of certified grade. Quebec stands four of all provinces in number of acres entered for inspection.

Chief causes of rejection were bacterial ring rot, either in crop or on same farm, mosaic, leaf roll, other potatoes on farm, lack of vigour, black leg, weeds and adjacent to diseased fields.



## Ayrshire Breeders' Annual Meeting

Membership in the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association was 2,397 at the end of last year, and judging by the size of the annual meeting, a large proportion of this membership came to Montreal on February 18th to see what is going on in their Association. A rapid change of plans had to be made, to find another room where all the members could get in at once, so large was the crowd.

And the members present took a larger share in the proceedings than is often the case, in more than one instance deciding on the floor not to accept certain recommendations as brought in by the board of directors, but to make their own amendments. For example, in the question of directors, it was decided that there should be another director from the Maritime Provinces, and also another from the West, to be added to the representation from the prairie provinces which in the past have been represented by only one delegate.

Another decision made had to do with the question of membership fees. The directors recommended that the initial fee, as payable by a man joining the Society for the first time, should be \$5.00, with annual fees of \$3.00 thereafter. This did not please the meeting, since it was thought that the higher fee might discourage new members from joining. It was therefore decided to leave the fee as it is, but to charge what might be called a "reinstatement fee" of \$2.00 extra whenever any member who had allowed his membership to lapse should apply again for membership. That is, a member re-joining the Society after a lapse of time would pay \$5.00 the first year.

The charge for registering animals after six months of age was raised from 25 to 50 cents per month.

A special committee has been at work for some time on an improved sire and dam plan and on a new herd test plan, and the report of the committee, which had passed the board of directors, was accepted by the meeting. This means that in future all records will be compiled on a computed weight basis, based on inspectors' weights. R. S. Hamer (who, during the course of the meeting, was presented with a life membership in the Society), reported that he hoped soon to have 150 inspectors at work, and that it was probable that all herds could be visited monthly.

Registrations during the year, reported Frank Napier, were 12,976, an increase of 501 over 1947. Transfers were 13,819, the largest ever, and exports were 1,587 over last years, for a total of 5,536.

The retiring president, J. R. Pelletier, gave the opening address of the meeting. The burden of his remarks was that Canadian farming is at the point where the stability of the whole agricultural world may depend upon increase in livestock population, and upon our being able to supply feed for them. Cost of production of livestock and livestock products is too high: crop yields per acre, and milk

production per cow, are too low. An added threat is, of course, the introduction of margarine, and he was convinced that dairymen would not ease in their efforts to combat this source of competition. He suggested, in regard to this, that strenuous efforts should be made to have legislation passed to prevent margarine being sold with yellow colouring added. If margarine must be sold in Canada, it should come on the market on its own merits and not masquerade as something else.

On the other hand, he pointed out, dairy farmers should take every means to cut down their costs of production, so that butter could be sold, profitably, at prices which would make the competition of margarine less keen. It is in this type of work that such an association as the Ayrshire breeders, with a strong, intelligent membership and with capable officers, could make real contributions toward a wide programme of livestock improvement. Herd testing and sire indexing can identify the good qualities which run in certain families, and familiarity with and the proper application of the principles of genetics cannot but result in improvement in our herds.

There is one fact about the Ayrshire breed, said Mr. Pelletier, which helps her compete with other breeds, and that is her ability to milk more economically, resist disease better and breed true. A good cow must have two lactations before she pays for herself at milking age. The average dairy cow is milked for only four years, but it is known that the Ayrshire has the ability to remain profitably in a herd for seven or eight years. This quality, however, must be proved through more accurate and official tests.

President of the National Association for the coming year is Lorne P. Evans of Aurora, Ont. Vice-President will be Erskine Rodgers, Lachute, and the Quebec directors chosen are J. R. Pelletier, P. D. McArthur, Prof. G. Toupin, Erskine Rodgers, Maurice Joubert and Wyman McKechnie. Chosen as judge for Toronto was Louis Seitz, and Rene Trepanier will judge at Ottawa.

### Quebec is Correcting Acidity

More limestone was used on Quebec's acid fields in 1948 than in any previous year, according to the records of transportation grants paid during the year. These show that up to the end of January 1949, subsidies had been paid on 142,000 tons carried by rail and on 102,000 tons carried by truck, and by the end of the fiscal year at the end of this month, it is expected that the grand total will be around 280,000 tons. This is a considerable increase over any other year.

The Minister of Agriculture is very interested in this programme, and last summer concluded an agreement with the federal government whereby it was possible to offer an increased transportation subsidy on liming materials.



## Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

A recent article by Dr. Crampton in the Jersey Breeder brings up another angle of improved pastures which does not trouble many of us. This is bloat from too much young clover. He was quoting experiments in Britain giving a new slant on the cause of bloat. Apparently it is due to prussic acid contained in rapidly growing young clover. Five pounds of these clippings yielded one and three quarters pints of juice containing twice the fatal dose of prussic acid for a sheep. The bloat is due to the fact that the acid stops the normal peristaltic movements in the intestines. In case you need the dictionary to know what that means (as Dot and I did) these are involuntary movements which throw off the gas created by the food. No more gas is created by the clover than by grass but it collects when too much clover is suddenly consumed. Grass clippings contain only one hundredth as much acid so will dilute clover juice to a safe level. At the same time the cattle can handle a large quantity of green clover safely in a day if it is eaten in small amounts at a time. This puts a real foundation under the practice of not allowing cattle on green clover when they are hungry or letting them stay too long at first. Once accustomed to it, they are safer on it all the time. The question on bloat was raised to Mr. Ste. Marie in connection with their ladino clover at the Lennoxville Experimental Farm but they seemed to have little trouble with it handled as above. Our own experience has been the same to date though we haven't enough to keep them on all the time. We did pick up some information from a local vet that was new to us but could be placed somewhat in the same class. This was that repeated large doses of Epsom salts can paralyze the bowels for a time and raw linseed oil and molasses are safer laxatives for cattle.

I do not know if salts can work



## Cooperating with Colleges and Tractor Manufacturers to Promote Better Farming

The work of agricultural extension men, in promoting better farming in Canada, is actively supported by Imperial Oil Limited through our field personnel. Every year, our farm trade field men attend special short courses at Agricultural Colleges, where they receive instruction from, and discuss farm problems with, members of the Agricultural Engineering Departments, other agricultural authorities, and technical men from the staffs of tractor and implement manufacturers.

These short courses embrace such subjects as the servicing of tractors in the field, care of farm machinery in operation and storage, correct hitches, and approved tillage and harvesting methods.

The information so gained is up-to-date and directly in line with information disseminated through Agricultural Representatives and through Departmental activities. It is passed on through our farm agents to our farm customers . . . helping customers to reduce operating costs and to increase crop yields.



**IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED**  
FARM DIVISION



the same on hogs but we have had a number of cases of constipation with hogs. Many of them responded to salts but a few of them became worse and enemas of warm water and soapsuds were required to break the blockade. Anyone who has never tried it will be amazed at the quick results obtained though our worst case needed treatment twice a day for a week. We also had a case of just the opposite condition in young pigs which responded quickly to a simple treatment. We had given them iron four days before but Ivan suggested that it was only a preventative dose and that the curative dose was larger. Anyway we repeated the iron at once and reduced the feed a little and the trouble disappeared.

Several weeks ago we had a letter from a farmer near Quebec commenting on our suggestion for combining grain from the swath. He too felt that it would be more satisfactory than direct combining in our climate but would like to know how to get a swather such as we mentioned. The letter was mislaid but we got ours from our IHC dealer. Simple irons for attaching it can be welded on any mower. Incidentally he had used a rather roundabout but somewhat similar method of harvesting with machines already at hand. Grain was cut with the mower and pitched back by hand (for lack of the swather). When the swath was dry it was picked up with a slice baler and then the slices went through a thresher. The straw made a second trip through the baler to finish the job. The swather would ease the cutting while the combine would thresh it as picked up. The baler could then pick up the straw without any handling at all. The pick-up on the combine is the same as on the baler. For our own use we would prefer to pick up the straw with a hayloader and put it into the barn with a cutting box as the straw is so much more useful later. In the past we have sold some long straw because the manure was so hard to handle with too much of it in. However the cut straw is much better and sawdust will become harder to get as the woods disappear so we do not expect to sell any more straw.

## Don't Buy Feed

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Incidentally straw seems to figure in soil conservation measures in various places to check erosion. In severe cases the latter takes top soil from one spot to bury crops at a lower level. This happened at Lennoxville in 1942 when one farmer lost two-thirds of his farm by erosion in a bad storm and another had a field covered with four or five feet of dirt and gravel. Such cases will become more frequent as the woods are removed. But the everyday process of erosion is more important than we realize. Experiments at Ottawa showed a loss of as high as 104 tons per acre of soil on summer fallow in 1946. On corn it was almost as high though manuring the corn land reduced the loss considerably. That is where the straw comes in for more organic matter will absorb the rain and decrease the run-off. The intensity of the rain makes a difference for three inches of rain in an hour removed 53 tons of soil from corn on a 10% slope while one and a quarter inches in an hour took off only two tons. In the United States in 1934 it was estimated that sixty times as much fertility was washed away as was purchased in chemical fertilizers. Louis Bromfield who has done wonders in restoring eroded farms in Ohio, found a bridge under sixteen feet of soil when excavating for a pond. So we all have an erosion problem and part of Bromfield's treatment is a trash mulch (straw, etc) to hold moisture and stop run-off.

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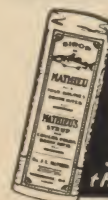
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## What Is Sour Land?

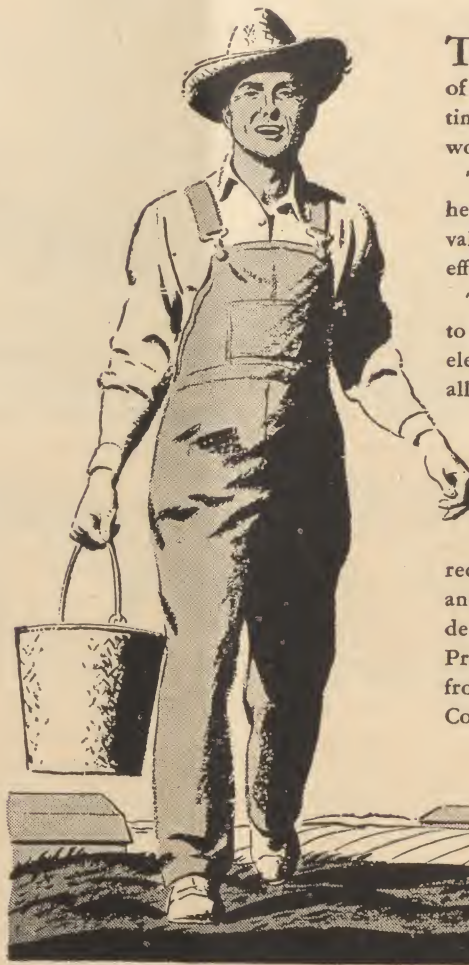
"Sour Land" is a very misunderstood term, says P. C. Stoope, Field Husbandry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. It means land which is acid in reaction and which requires a certain amount of lime or other alkaline substances to make the soil sweet or neutral in reaction. But quite often people use it to describe poorly drained soils, which do not produce satisfactory crops and which generally favour the growth of moisture-loving plants, such as horse tail, sedges and moss. Such land is not always sour.

In areas where some limestone rock fragments are found in the sub-soils and in the underlying geological materials, the poorly drained, dark coloured soils in gentle depressions are generally less acid than the surrounding well-drained soils. In many instances such poorly drained soils are neutral or alkaline in reaction and therefore require no lime, whereas the adjacent well-drained soils may be acid to various degrees.

Such poorly drained soils which have often been wrongly referred to as sour land, do not need lime, but improved drainage. The application of additional lime without improving the drainage of such soils would in many cases lower the productive capacity of the land.

In areas where limestone rock fragments are absent from the sub-soil and the underlying geological materials, the poorly drained, as well as the well-drained soils, are generally sour or acid in reaction. Under such conditions the poorly and imperfectly drained soils are often somewhat more acid than the associated well-drained soils. The cultivated surface soils of such sour, poorly drained soils are generally more greyish in colour than the well drained soils. Applications of lime to the land in such areas are generally more beneficial on the well-drained soils than on the more acid, poorly drained land, unless the drainage conditions of the latter are improved at the same time.

## A FARMER KNOWS THE VALUE OF A DOLLAR




**T**HE farmer knows how many strokes of labour a dollar represents. At bedtime his bones ache with the day's work that earned it.

These days, with the shortage of hired help, that dollar takes on increased value, for it represents even greater effort on the part of the farmer.

That is why it is sound common sense to get the very best out of all existing electrical helpers—to set in good order all electrical farm equipment and save time, labour and money.

In extending congratulations to the farmers of Quebec on what they have already achieved, The Shawinigan Water & Power Co. recommends full use of the repair and adjustment services of Shawinigan dealers and urges the farmers of this Province to get all there is to be had from the low cost electrical service the Company supplies.

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## THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes  
and to matters of interest to them*

### The Tweedsmuir Histories

by Hazel Coates

**The Aim.** It is our desire to compile books which will be authentic records about the settlement of the communities where we live. To this, we add the story of the development of our district, stories of pioneer families, accounts of our institute work and of all wartime activities. These village, or community books, are called Tweedsmuir Histories.

The Lady Tweedsmuir has written a "Foreword" to be inserted in each book. In it, she expresses her pleasure that Canadian women, members of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, have undertaken this work. Her great interest in Women's Institute work is well known. Three years ago, she offered three trophies to encourage us in Handicrafts, Literary effort in essay writing and in preparing our Histories. These competitions are to be held every second year.

Quebec Province has a storied past—let us not neglect to record the story of our own community, the preparation of a History.

**Preparation.** The competition requires that the books submitted be in a stiff-covered book (loose-leaf is best) and be written legibly by hand or typed, on one side of the paper.

If you are interested in a Tweedsmuir History, it is not too early to begin one for 1951. There are many sources of information to use as a foundation for your narrative, but it takes time to contact them.

If your county or town has a Historical Society, that is a good place to begin. Whatever is available there is authentic. Books have been written about early settlers in Quebec. Some of these are in French; but many parts of the Province were pioneered by the English so we have some reliable source books in English to consult.

Those who live in the Eastern Townships will find Mrs. C.M. Day's books very useful, "The Pioneers of the Eastern Townships" and "History of the Eastern Townships", both published before 1870, cover the pioneer years quite ably.

Many counties have a history of their own. If your county has one, find it, and the first stone is ready for the foundation of your own.

Where it is possible, visits to the Archives at Quebec and Ottawa, should prove very helpful. Old maps, kept there, reveal much.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the work is visiting our oldest people. They love to talk of the old

days. One will tell you of a trip taken by stage-coach, or of the earlier years when his father shouldered a bag of wheat or corn and walked miles to a grist-mill. The oldest ladies still prize the samplers they worked when they were girls, or the wedding bonnet treasured these long years.

One thing you notice is that no one speaks of those years as hard years. To those who were young when our Dominion was young, it was a time of high adventure.

**The Value of Our Histories.** You will realize that the story of the community where you live, is worth recording. Even if you have found a county history, it is, in most cases, several years old. And no one, writing of a large section of country, can tell all that is worth telling.

Keep your community boundaries clear, make sure of your facts (or record old, oft-told tales as traditions) follow the required outline, and you will have something of value to pass on to the citizens of tomorrow.

### The Month With the W.I.

**Argenteuil:** Arundel found a Military Whist and sale of handwork a profitable venture. Help with supplies of music for their school is also mentioned. Brownsburg entertained the county president, Mrs. Leggett, who gave a talk on W.I. work. Rev. J. G. Duncan was another speaker with a timely message. \$5 to the Grace Dart home and cookies to the Ste. Anne's Hospital were also reported. Frontier members responded to rollcall by a verse of their favorite song, all joining in singing it. The use and care of electrical appliances was discussed. Jerusalem-Bethany members received their certificate in the St. John's Ambulance Course and have bought a complete hospital bed. At Lachute an impromptu programme proved quite successful, various members making a contribution. Lakefield enjoyed a social evening. Yarn was purchased and members are making an afghan for sale. Morin Heights also reports a social evening of whist and other games. Upper Lachute and East End Sponsored a White Elephant sale and social evening.

**Bonaventure:** Marcil welcomed one new member and is discussing the possibility of holding a school fair this year. New Carlisle is taking a great interest in sending baskets of fruit to local service men in the hospital. New Richmond members visited their local schools during Education week. Thanks were received from the Mother



Superior of the hospital at Maria for donations of groceries. Calendars from their overseas friends in Chilliworth W.I., England, have been received together with letters and pictures giving details of their 25th anniversary. A feature of the Port Daniel report was the presentation of life membership to their treasurer, Mrs. Riou, in recognition of her faithful service. Restigouche held a successful rummage sale and tea to aid general funds and treats were given to 50 school children. Shigawake voted \$10 toward their emergency fund for Britain and sent 7 parcels overseas.

**Chat-Huntingdon:** Aubrey-Riverfield donated a studio couch to the Howick High School. The rollcall, "Your Oldest Possession and tell about it", together with a handicraft exhibit made "a wonderful display". Dundee reports an international programme with rollcall "Customs of another Country" and a talk on Russia. A card party and dance aided general funds. Ormstown featured Home Economics for their programme with a talk on Interior Decorating. The project of "talent money" is being used to raise funds. At Hemmingford many valuable ideas were gathered when household hints were handed in. A new method of making a rag rug was demonstrated.

**Compton:** Bury studied Newfoundland at their meeting, with a talk by Rev. Mr. Rowe, followed by a quiz on the same topic. A quilt sent to a burnt out family and a successful Thrift Shop, open twice a month, are other activities of this busy group. Weaving and pottery are to be taken up at their short course. Canterbury reports a rollcall of special merit, "How to make our meetings more interesting". The Ways and Means Committee sponsored a food sale. Cookshire donated \$25 to the school for their hot lunch project and the layette made by this branch was given the Jr. Red Cross together with White Gifts. East Angus presented a gift to a member moving away and reports \$25 spent on sunshine work in their community. Sawyerville is raising funds by means of card parties. A contest on jumbled names of political leaders was featured on their programme.

**Gaspe:** Wakeham heard a talk on handicrafts by Mrs. E. S. Reed, a member who attended the short course last year. Articles of handwork were exhibited, each member telling how hers had been made. Prizes are being given in the school. York also heard a talk on the short course by Mrs. Reed. A donation of \$2.20 was sent the Children's Hospital for the memorial bed there.

**Missisquoi:** Dunham is furnishing soup for hot lunches in their school and realized \$19.50 from a tea and sale to help the funds. A friendly message was read from a former member now visiting in Scotland. Fordyce heard a talk by a member who was just returned from a visit in England, which gave a better idea of what to put in their food parcels. A gift was presented to Miss Bridgette for her work in preparing their cook books. St. Armand received donations of \$16 from members now living else-

where but who still retain their interest in the work of their branch.

**Montcalm:** Rawdon reports the very popular method of raising money, a card party. \$5 gifts have been given each Sunday School. This branch sends a 20 lb. parcel overseas every month.

**Megantic:** Inverness also faithfully sends what they fittingly call their "family parcel" every month. A committee was appointed to draw up the programme for the coming year.

**Papineau:** Lochaber heard a splendid paper entitled "Good Citizenship". A potted plant was sent their treasurer who is ill, and thanks were received from the Children's Memorial for a box of toys.

**Pontiac:** Beech Grove sent a large parcel of towelling to a family who lost all by fire. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of a beloved member. Bristol Busy Bees noted the passing of Mrs. Watt and donated the sum of \$10 to the "Snow Plough Committee". Clarendon has established a trust fund in a local store to provide hot lunches for children recently bereft of parents. A sale of fancy work was a financial success. Elmside, "Keeping the Institute up to date" was the topic of an address, with mending hints and a cookie contest to complete the programme. Fort Coulonge planned a musical programme of instrumental selections, readings and a contest, which was well received. Quyon sent a letter of appreciation to the local council for their co-operation and discussed elementary First Aid. Shawville held a party when they entertained the nurses of their community Hospital. A quilt was completed for Save the Children. Stark's Corners had a "social time together". Wyman had a programme of current events, a "setting-up exercise" game and a story "Life's Spice Cake".

**Rouville:** At Abbotsford Mrs. Morley Honey gave a comprehensive paper on the history of their W.I. since it was organized in 1928.

**Richmond:** Cleveland entertained Miss Fletcher, R.N. who gave a talk on "Health among School Children". A contest, with prizes, was held on plain and fancy breads. Denison's Mills sent a gift to a member now living in Ontario and a two minute's silence was observed in



Cleveland W.I. Hall



memory of Mrs. Watt. Gore heard a letter from a nurse doing mission work in China. A knitting contest and drawing of prizes for their "Flower Fund" are also reported. Shipton held a birthday party for an 86 year old member, Mrs. Jenny Smith. A birthday cake was served and a beautiful plant presented to Mrs. Smith.

**Shefford:** Granby Hill held an auction of articles made from a Canadian product, these being handed in as response to rollcall. South Roxton had a programme on Publicity, concluding with an amusing contest on jumbled letters. Plans are under way for a food sale. Warden is starting a lending library among the members. A contest was enjoyed and a good response was given the rollcall, "Name the good points of your right hand neighbour".

**Sherbrooke:** Ascot lists several donations; \$15 to Save the Children, \$5 to the Blind Campaign and \$5 to the Cancer Research Fund. Brompton Road, favorite recipes were handed in for rollcall. These are to be compiled in a cook book which will be sold to aid the treasury. Cherry River held a "Guest Day" when visitors included the County Pres. Mrs. Evans, the 1st Vice-president, Mrs. Richards, and members of Austin W.I. A special programme was carried out and gifts presented the guests. Milby reports many worthwhile suggestions for the coming year's work were handed in for rollcall. One new member was enrolled. Lennoxville, a demonstration on making a dress form and a contest on date and orange bread were features of their report. \$10 was voted to the Campaign for the Blind.

**Stanstead:** Beebe sent \$50 for the care of their two adopted European children. This makes their total \$100 for the year. They also sponsored a party when the DP girls working in that place were welcomed. Fitch Bay reports much sunshine work and Minton held a Bring and



Ascot W.I. arrives by bus for a meeting with Mrs. Arthur Coates, provincial convener of Education, who is a member of that branch.

Buy sale. North Hatley is another branch with an "adopted child" and \$25 was sent Mrs. Harvey for that purpose. \$5 was also given the local Community Club. North Stanstead sent a hand woven shawl to their "parcel" friend in Wales. A programme on Publicity was noted. Tomifobia held a card party and dance. \$5 was sent to the Sherbrooke Hospital and the report adds "our loom is now in operation with two rugs completed". Way's Mills members received gifts from their friends of the Cross-in-Hand W.I. England. Sugar, flour and shortening are to be sent overseas this month.

**Vaudreuil:** Cavagnal reports their plan of social meetings in the evening for mothers and business girls who cannot attend in the afternoon is proving most successful. A donation of \$25 was voted to the Cancer Fund and \$7 to assist in starting a Cub Pack. A demonstration on English smocking was given and a large quantity of candy made and sent to the Veteran's Hospital at Ste. Anne's. \$20.50, proceeds of a card party, are to be used for postage on overseas parcels.

## Jottings From the Board Meetings

Full participation by all members and lively discussions, marked the semi-annual meeting of the provincial board of the Quebec Women's Institutes held at the Queen's Hotel, Montreal. The president, Mrs. R. Thomson, presided at all sessions and the full agenda revealed the steady expansion of Institute work in this province.

Mme P. C. LeBeau, of the Department of Agriculture, Quebec, attended the meetings and was accorded the usual hearty welcome, as her help and advice add much to the success of these gatherings. Discussing the appointment of Miss Mae Birch as Handicraft Technician for the Q.W.I., she stated all travelling expenses are paid by the department and all necessary equipment furnished for her work. Courses in weaving and other forms of handicrafts are to be given and a schedule is being drawn up to cover the many requests coming in from the branches for this service.

Junior work also came under fire. The need for more

personal supervision was found to be imperative and county presidents were asked to look into the matter. Mme Lebeau told of technicians, trained at Quebec in girl's work, and added these would assist English as well as French speaking girls if desired, giving courses in sewing, nutrition, etc. Mrs. Thomson expressed gratitude for all the assistance given by the department which is enabling the Q.W.I. to round out their programme.

The vexed question of the differing viewpoints of rural and urban women caused another lively discussion at the opening session. Miss Esther Kerry, M.A., president of the Montreal Council of Women, was the guest speaker and led in the discussion period that followed. Round table discussions were suggested between similar committees to provide a starting point for constructive action.

Other visitors at the meetings were Mrs. Maud Kerr, Women's Editor, Family Herald and Weekly Star, and Mrs. Clement Holden, president Montreal Y.W.C.A.



Mrs. Kerr expressed her pleasure at being present as she always enjoyed these contacts with rural women. She called attention to the pamphlet on Publicity issued by the Information Service, Macdonald College, and felt it would be helpful to all publicity convenors. A broad outline of the work of the Y.W. and how they hope to enlarge that service was given by Mrs. Holden. The support given their building campaign by the Q.W.I. stemmed from this talk.

Tangible expression of the appreciation felt by the Q.W.I. for the support given their work by McGill University was shown when the members unanimously approved a donation of \$100 to the McGill Campaign for funds. Through the facilities at Macdonald College the university has always promoted Institute work.

The highlight of the report of the treasurer, Mrs. Harvey, was the increase noted in the number of branches adopting a European child. She also mentioned a slackening in donations to the Q.W.I. Service Fund and urged this should not be allowed to continue. As the need is still so great Save the Children and Personal Parcels are to be continued as provincial projects.

Another senior branch, Knowlton's Landing, was reported by the Demonstrator-Secretary, Miss Joy Guild, making a total of 100 senior and 4 junior. An increase in membership was also noted, 2,850 now being recorded. Mention of 40 demonstrations to 70 branches, visits to fairs, where she assisted in judging, school fairs attended, and secretarial work connected with the office, revealed the tremendous amount of work accomplished by Miss Guild during the past season.

Four Tweedsmuir Histories are being prepared but Mrs. Coates, Convenor of Education, stated no entries in the other sections of the Tweedsmuir Competitions had been reported to date. Counties that have not already done so are asked to send their Institute histories to Miss Abbie Pritchard, Wyman, as soon as possible as she is anxious to complete her work on, "The History of the Q.W.I."

An advance notice was given of the annual convention. This is to be held June 27-30 at Macdonald College and all arrangements for that event were left in the hands of the executive. A handicraft exhibit is to be carried on again this year, each branch to contribute one article for display purposes only. The annual short course is to be held again this year, full details to be announced later.

The whole question of bursaries to students and grants to nurses in training is being carefully studied. "55% of the girls taking the H.Ec. Course are from rural areas", stated Mrs. Thomson, "and not one of them is receiving a bursary from the Department of Youth". She felt it would be desirable to have a woman in that department and suggested the W.I. might strive for such an objective. It is hoped concrete results of benefit to our young people will be attained from the research being done on this matter.

Acting on the usual procedure, the following committees were appointed by the chair; Nominations: Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, Mrs. E. Sweetman and Mrs. E. Findley. Resolutions: Mrs. H. G. Taylor, Mrs. F. B. Robinson and Mrs. J. D. Lang.

A tribute from the Q.W.I. to the late Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E., M.A., was a feature of the opening session, Friday evening. Mme LeBeau voiced a similar expression on behalf of Les Cercles des Fermières.

Looking over the agenda of these meetings one could not help but note the steady expansion of the work and realize that the W.I. is always in the forefront of any movement for the betterment of rural living.

In the report of the board meetings in this issue you will see Mrs. Harvey's comment on the Q.W.I. Service Fund. There will be an improvement here as many branches report donations this month ranging from \$20 on down the scale to several of \$5. The balance shown on the statement presented at these meetings was \$1,725.40. Evidently that is going to look much better before the annual short course takes place. Demonstrations were still mentioned this month, as Miss Guild completed her itinerary. Sandwich Making was still the one most frequently mentioned with Stain Removal a close second. Sunshine work is another feature of all reports and a few branches say they are sending their parcels through CARE.

## County Happenings

The history of Bonaventure County Women's Institutes, as compiled by Mrs. Dow, was given over radio station CHNC and CKNB, "which was much enjoyed by all who heard the broadcast", adds Mrs. Dimock, county Convenor of Publicity.

A new trail is being explored by Sherbrooke County W.I. when Mrs. Donald Ross was appointed Supervisor of Drama. The whole idea is to focus attention on the cultural arts of our own country and to create an appreciation of the work of Canadian artists in all fields. The first programme was arranged around the theme "For Home and Country" and was heard by a large and appreciative audience.

A regretful note is heard in the report from Mrs. Eden, County Convenor of Publicity for Gaspé. Their president, Mrs. Gerald Miller, has resigned and left to make her home with her daughter in Lethbridge, Alta. She was a most efficient and loyal officer, having served as president for nine years, and during that time had welded all branches in her county into one strong working unit. Her cheery smile and helpful suggestions will be missed at the Q.W.I. board meetings and the members join with her own county in wishing her much happiness in her new home. A life membership in the Q.W.I. was presented to her at Christmas by the branches of Gaspé County W.I. in recognition of her faithful service.



## Third War Memorial Address

Macdonald College has a two-part War Memorial. The visible memorial is the Library entrance, in which have been placed, on either side of the door, the two Books of Remembrance, commemorating those who served in both wars. The other aspect of our memorial is the provision for an address each year by some outstanding personality, who will bring to students and staff members "an intelligent understanding of world affairs, and inspiration to do their part toward the maintenance of freedom, tolerance and the improvement of human relations."



The choice of speaker this year fell upon Dr. Leonard W. Brockington, K.C., Rector of Queen's University, and formerly Chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, who delivered the Memorial Address on the evening of March 9th to a capacity audience of students, staff members, and invited guests.

Members of the staff, in colourful academic robes, entered the Assembly Hall in solemn academic procession to take their places on the platform. Attending the ceremony were the Chancellor of the University, the Honourable Orville S. Tyndale, Principal James, the chairman of the War Memorial Committee, the president of the Macdonald Alumni Association, the president of the Students' Council and the president of the Student Veterans' Association, representatives of the University Board of Governors, were also present.

Our photograph shows the Library Entrance, which was officially opened by the Governor General at the time of the second Memorial Address in 1948.

## N.S. Group Endorses Grassland

Grassland farming may not be a panacea for all farm production ills. But in Nova Scotia, where grass is a natural crop, it offers a solution to many of the problems which confront those engaged in the agricultural industry. Grassland farming is not new but it is only in recent years that steps have been taken to introduce the more widespread use of good agricultural practices which will guarantee that the soil resources of the province will be retained without any further depletion. For grassland farming, if properly followed, will do just that very thing.

This was the sum and substance of conclusions reached at the annual conference of extension workers of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing. It is a belief to which all members of the department, from the Minister down, subscribe. More than that, it is a belief which is endorsed by the leading farmers of the province, from Yarmouth to Cape North.

In commenting upon experiments conducted at Cornell University, J. E. Shuh pointed out that, under winter feeding conditions, costs of milk production were shown to be about four times as high as in summer. For this reason, considerable interest had been manifest in a proposition whereby the spring flush of spring pastures could be carried over and used to even out the summer slump as well as to provide cheap sources of protein feed for winter feeding. The proposition in question is the storing of hay and storage crops in silos at a time when they have their highest feed value.

While the practice of storing grass silage appeared to be a sound proposition, and a satisfactory solution to high feed costs in winter, the meeting agreed with Dr. G. R. Smith that the production of grass called for the introduction of sound soil management practices. In the past, too many soils had been depleted of their wealth through improper handling and exploitation of soil resources. However, if good management practices are introduced, Dr. Smith believed that many of the run-out soils could be rehabilitated without too much difficulty.

## Keeping Seed Grain Clean

The problem of storing seed grain on the farm need not be too serious for the farmer who wants to have his seed ready says John D. MacLeod, formerly Director of the Ontario Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch. Mainly, the problems are to avoid mixing with other varieties, to keep the seed dry and to avoid damage by mice and rats.

It is desirable to leave clean seed in the bags until seeding time, says Mr. MacLeod, as this reduces handling and lessen the risk of contamination from other seed. Damage by mice can be reduced by piling the bags in single rows with no crossing, and separating the rows with lath or strips of not more than half-inch lumber to prevent tipping. Piles should be accessible to cats on all four sides. An added precaution is to sprinkle the area around and on top of the bags with sulphur.





## THE COLLEGE PAGE

### College Marks Founder's Day

On February 10th, 1831, was born the man who in his later years was to be the founder of Macdonald College and one of McGill University's most generous benefactors. He was Sir William Macdonald, and on February 10th last, students and staff members marked Founder's Day in traditional fashion.

All afternoon classes were cancelled, and in the evening representatives of various student organizations on the campus met for dinner with Mrs. Walter M. Stewart, Mrs. James (the Principal was detained in Montreal on University business), and Dean and Mrs. Brittain, Dean and Mrs. Laird and Dr. McCready.

The Founder's Day Concert, always the highlight of the occasion, was given this year by the Montreal Men's Choir, under the direction of John Robb, and with Miss Lilian Thompson, soprano, and Mr. Harry Maude, Bass Baritone, as featured soloists.

It is a pleasure once again to record the fact that without the generous interest of Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Stewart, these Founder's Day celebrations would be far less elaborate and far less enjoyable than they are. When it comes to doing something for the students of Macdonald College, the Stewart generosity knows no bounds. For example, the new men's smoking room, in the basement of the Main Building, was prepared and furnished from funds put at the disposal of the Students' Council by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart.



At the opening of the new smoking room Mrs. Walter M. Stewart chats with Hugh Craig, president of the Students' Council, while Dean Brittain looks on.

### Mac Graduate Passes

We regret to record the sudden death, on February 16, of Harris W. Brighton, B.S.A. '23.

Mr. Brighton entered Macdonald College in the fall of 1914, but enlisted on completion of his first year as a private in the P.P.C.L.I., won his commission and in 1917 transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He was invalided home to Canada in 1918, worked for a time with the Soldiers' Settlement Board, then returned to College and obtained his degree. He worked as a livestock specialist with the Department of Agriculture for a time, then joined the colonization branch of the C.N.R. He was assistant superintendant in the railway's Liverpool office until 1929, when he joined the Trade Commissioner Service of the Department of Trade and Commerce. He did tours of duty at Buenos Aires, Lima, Cape Town and Panama, being placed in charge of the latter office in 1939. Suffering from heart trouble, he was recalled to Ottawa in 1942 and became director of the export section, Shipping Priorities Committee; in May 1947, he was appointed Vancouver representative of the Foreign Trade Service.

Our sincere sympathy goes to his widow, the former Madeleine Stevenson of Wakefield, Que., and to his son John.



The Montreal Men's Choir at the Founder's Day Concert.



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